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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283, 759

I do believe that if we had not made LB 1085 temporary a year ago, we wouldn't be going through this painful exercise that we have gone through this session. So, as Senator Landis mentioned, we have given tax decreases since 1997. I think we've returned a little over \$300 million to the taxpayers through income and sales tax, and even property tax, where we funded the community colleges. So when we do have funds, I do believe that we are good at giving them back to the state...or to the communities and the citizens. But at this time, I think this is the wrong approach. Again, had we not done the temporary nature of LB 1085 a year ago, we wouldn't have had to go through everything that we did this session with LB 759 and these other revenue bills. So again, I'm going to oppose Senator Brown's amendment. But I appreciate what she's trying to do. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Stuthman, you're recognized.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the body. I've been listening very closely to the debate here. And I always have a problem with putting a sunset on something, unless you have a definite plan for a replacement of it, or a no-need situation after that. So I have...I become real problem with putting a sunset on anything. I think to compound the problem is, with these term limits, about half of the body will be new in 2007. Fortunately, there will be some that have a lot of institutional knowledge here will still, hopefully, be back here yet. But I think new senators, possibly 20 new ones will be coming to this floor in 2007. And to be faced with something that we have put that will be sunset, and there's a need of money, and they immediately have to either extend it or try to live with it, could create a real problem. So I rise in opposition of this amendment, although it does have a lot of merit. But unless it has a real definite plan of what you're going to do after the sunset, and have that down black and white, then I'm continually in opposition of a sunset, because we don't have anything to replace it or to make sure that there is no need. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Mr. Clerk.